

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 12 and 14 are requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sakamoto (JP 2003-120703).

Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Sakamoto in view of Dougherty et al. (US 5,470,157).

As shown above, claims 1, 5, 11 and 13 are canceled, thereby rendering moot the rejections thereof.

Claim 12 is amended to include the limitations of claim 1 and to further define the claimed hub unit for a driving wheel. Support for these amendments is present, for example, in original claim 1, FIGS. 1-3, and pages 18-26 of the specification.

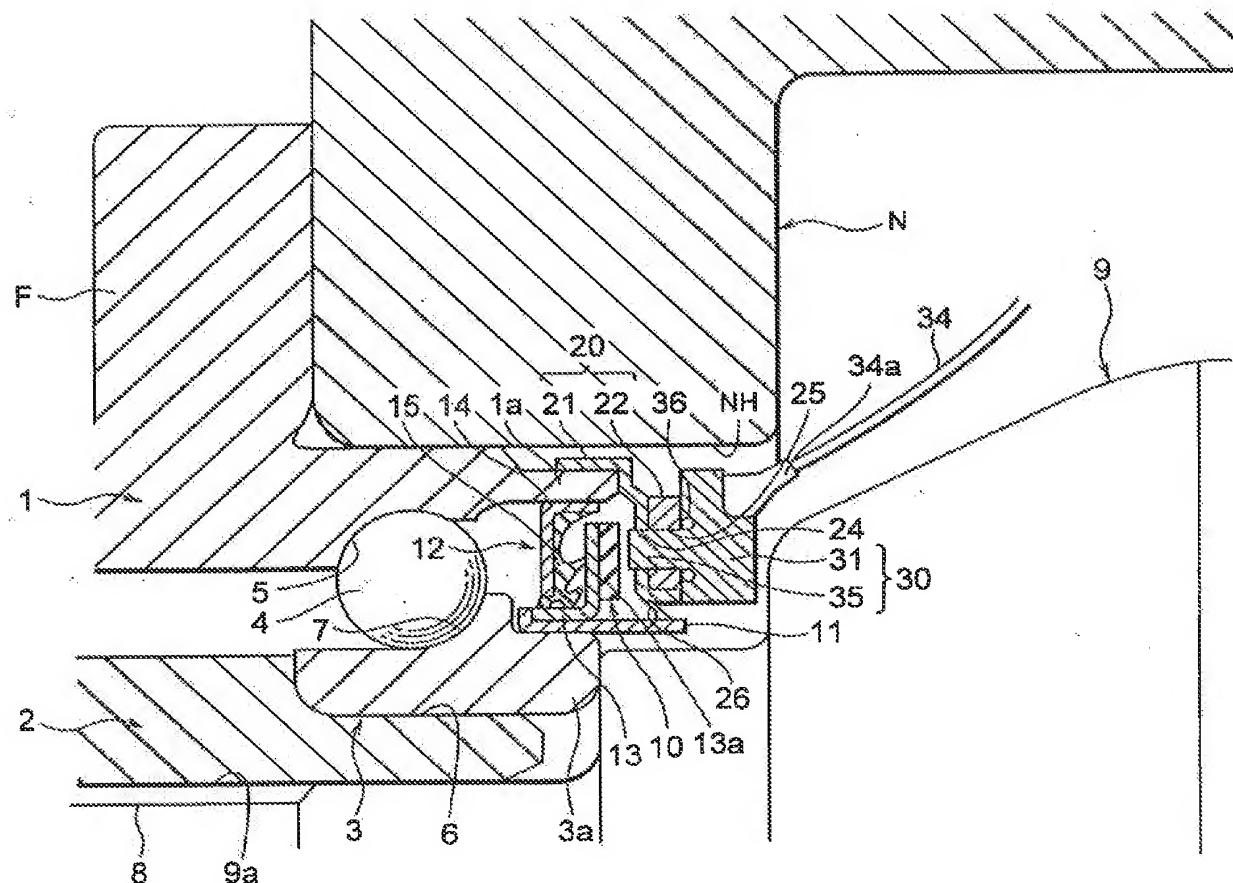
New claim 14 is added to further define the sensor of claim 12. Support for this claim is present in at least FIG. 2 and page 24 of the specification.

Applicant submits that the combination of Sakamoto and Dougherty does not teach or suggest the sensor/sensor holder arrangement claimed in claim 12. According to this claim, the sensor holder includes an annular metal portion and a resin portion formed integrally therewith, the annular metal portion having integrally a portion fixedly fitted to the stationary ring, an annular portion radially inwardly extended from the fixedly fitted portion and an end portion

extended axially from a radially inner end of the annular portion over an inner diameter portion of the resin portion, which is integrally formed with the radially extended annular portion and the axially extended end portion. Additionally, the sensor is fixed to the resin portion of the sensor holder with a plurality of screws spaced apart circumferentially from each other.

According to the hub unit claimed in amended claim 12, in the sensor holder (20) (FIG. 2, reproduced below), the annular metal portion (21) has integrally an end portion extended axially over an inner diameter portion of the resin portion (22), and the resin portion (22) is integrally formed with the annular metal portion (21).

FIG. 2



When the resin portion (22) is formed integrally with an annular metal portion (21) by injection molding, the binding force between the inner diameter portion of the annular resin portion and the end portion of the annular metal portion (21) becomes stronger due to contraction of the resin.

In addition, the annular resin portion prevents the annular metal portion from deforming radially outwardly, and thus the force for fitting the metal portion onto the outer ring is larger.

On the other hand, the metal portion prevents the resin portion from deforming caused by contraction of the resin.

Therefore, position accuracy of the screw holes of the sensor is improved.

Sakamoto includes no teaching of how to connect the sensor and the sensor holder. It simply discloses that the sensor holder 25 (FIG. 5) is disposed along sides of the sensor 8. Moreover, in Sakamoto, when the sensor 8 is fitted in the sensor holder 25, the binding force between the sensor holder 25 and the outer ring 2 would decrease, since a radially outward force acts on the sensor holder 25.

Dougherty also fails to teach or suggest the sensor/sensor holder arrangement of amended claim 12. As illustrated in FIG. 5 (reproduced below), Dougherty's structure does not include all of the features of amended claim 12.

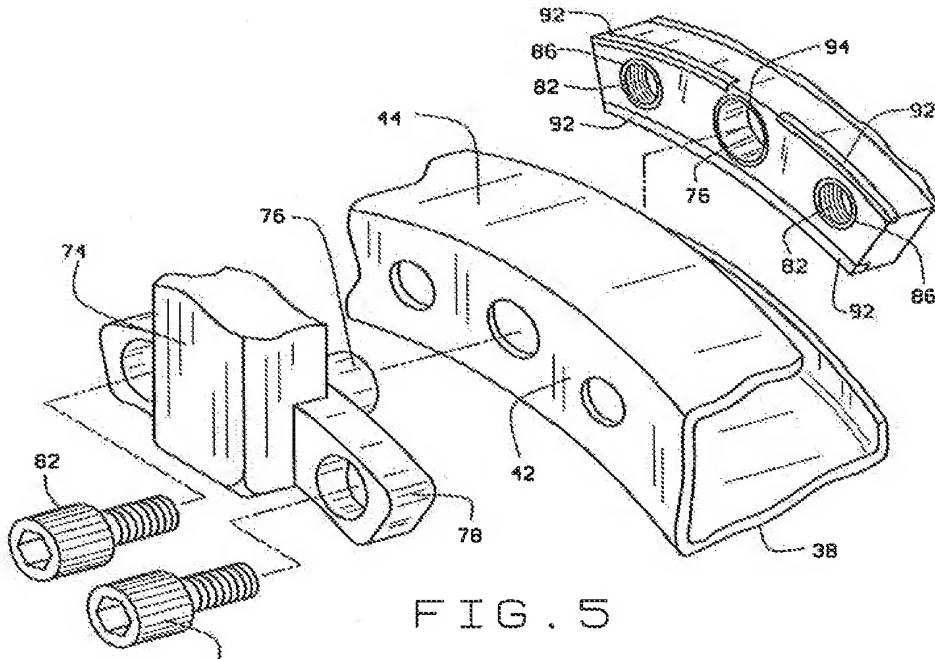


FIG. 5

Specifically, Dougherty does not disclose a sensor holder that includes an annular metal portion (see Applicant's FIG. 2, element 21) and a resin portion (22) formed integrally therewith, the annular metal portion (21) having integrally a portion (uppermost portion of 21 shown in FIG. 2) fixedly fitted to the stationary ring, an annular portion (portion of 21 extending downward in FIG. 2 from the uppermost portion of 21) radially inwardly extended from the fixedly fitted portion and an end portion (lowermost portion of 21) extended axially from a radially inner end of the annular portion over an inner diameter portion of the resin portion (22), which is integrally formed with the radially extended annular portion and the axially extended end portion.

Moreover, an object of the present invention is to provide a sensor unit that is assembled easily even if the space is limited especially axially because of

a CVJ (Constant Velocity Joint). Further, the present invention enables one to dispose the harness without interfering with the CVJ. In this regard, the sensor is annular so as to use the limited space effectively, and the holder and the sensor are separate members from each other to make assembling and disassembling easier.

Sakamoto uses an annular sensor, but it does not teach or suggest any space-saving. Further, Sakamoto's sensor is integrated with the holder and thus cannot be disassembled easily.

Dougherty also does not teach or suggest any space-saving. Additionally, in Dougherty both a removable sensor and the head of the bolt project greatly axially (see Fig. 5), which contradicts the object of space-saving.

Thus, even if the teachings of the Sakamoto and Dougherty references were combined, the combination would not result in the invention claimed in amended claim 12.

Therefore, amended claim 12 is patentable over the combination of Sakamoto and Dougherty.

With respect to new claim 14, the sensor is annular, so internal space of the sensor is relatively larger, thereby there being a larger room for arrangement of the parts. Accordingly, it is possible to provide a plurality of concaved holes each for receiving the head of the screw. Because of such concaved holes, the

heads of the screws do not project from the sensor, so it is effective in space-saving axially.

Applicant submits that claim 14 is patentable due to its dependence from claim 12 and because the prior art does not teach or suggest its limitations.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323, Docket No. 038919.57625US.

Respectfully submitted,

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